

1965

## CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

4153

Not only the opportunity for work but the basis for self-respect is being provided. The war against poverty is, in the last analysis, the struggle for human decency and independence."

Johnson based his comments on the report from Wirtz in which the Labor Secretary used extensive quotations from the project's enrollees to make his point of "heartening and meaningful" success in the Newark program.

"The single most important result of the program thus far," he said, "is the proof it has provided that young persons disheartened by failure at school and discouraged by failure in the labor force do respond with hope, confidence, and effort when given that important third chance."

## KEY TO OPPORTUNITY

"The Neighborhood Youth Corps has been built upon the belief that supervised employment in public and nonprofit agencies is a key that unlocks the door of opportunity now shut and bolted against the dropout. It is a key, not only because it provides a needed source of income, but a source of pride as well."

Wirtz' report complimented Newark Mayor Addonizio for acting promptly on the program when NYC funds became available. The program eventually will have 700 school dropouts at work in schools, city hospitals, library, museum, and public offices and agencies.

Of the original 240 boys and girls who began with the project, only 10 dropped out by the end of the first month—and 2 of those 10 had returned to school.

Wirtz said 112 enrollees are working at city hospital and at the Ivy Haven Home (for the aged), 27 at Newark Library and Newark Museum, and similar service offices, 13 boys in police and firemen's communications work as linesman's helpers, and 30 boys in the city's motor department learning maintenance and repair of vehicles.

## DUTIES LISTED

"In general, Neighborhood Youth Corps enrollees may be found helping to care for the sick, doing routine clerical duties, learning to draft maps and charts, assisting mechanics in garages, helping field engineering teams, working in kitchens and laboratories," Wirtz reported to Johnson.

The Labor Secretary said the following conclusions seemed warranted after consultations and interviews with the Newark enrollees and with the project staff headed by Dr. Thomas Flagg.

Projects of the NYC can provide "the kind of special, interested attention that schools often cannot provide."

Work with the NYC stimulates in the boys and girls a desire to return to school. It does this by putting them to work in a way in which the value of education is clear.

Enrollees in the NYC do their jobs with interest and effectiveness.

Wirtz noted that jobs done by NYC enrollees was work that ordinarily would not be done, but ought to be done in the public interest.

## CANARD DISPELLED

"The Newark experience, in its first month, has exploded the 'make-work' concept," he said. "If anyone in the country thought of this program as a device to remove unemployed boys and girls from the statistics by filling up their time, the job performance of the enrollees has dispelled that canard."

The enrollees work 30 hours a week. Where possible, they are placed in jobs for which they have a preference.

Wirtz stressed that the job counselors in the project were, according to the young enrollees, a source of inspiration. The Secretary quoted the words of a counselor to explain this feeling of the enrollees.

"Each and every youngster is important to us," said the counselor. "Some of them

seemingly feel that they are not important to anybody, that nobody does care about them. Well, we care. Secondly, we give them regular counseling and supervision, both on the job and through our office. We give constant attention to their educational plans and will hopefully get them all back in school."

## ENROLLEES' WISH

Wirtz said an overwhelming majority of the enrollees wanted to return to school, and that this wish was helped by "the growing feeling of confidence, fostered by their performance at work, that they can succeed."

The report by Wirtz included anonymous interviews with students who repeatedly expressed the view that education was of paramount importance in the modern world and that for the school dropout "life wasn't as great as I thought it was going to be."

One girl said she dropped out of school because she lost interest, her mind wasn't on school. Asked what her mind was on now, the following dialog took place:

"Getting a better education."

"What made you change your mind?"

"Because I had such a hard time trying to find a job."

## NOT MUCH FUN

"It wasn't as much fun as you thought."

"No, it wasn't."

And one enrollee working a lot with unwed mothers said she told them to look to the future because they were young and still had a chance to continue their education.

"This birth of a second generation hope is a reward beyond price," concluded Wirtz in his report to Johnson. "It is one of the compelling features that makes the Newark program a success in the most important terms of all."

"Rather than submit to you a formalized statement on this program, I have offered in evidence the voices of the boys and girls themselves. They are proving themselves. They are making the successes. The interest of this Government was in providing the opportunity. The rest was up to the enrollees. There is every indication \*\*\* that the NYC will provide an enriching and rewarding experience for its enrollees, its counselors, its administrators and for the American public in general."

[From the Washington (D.C.) Post, Feb. 19, 1965]

## DROPOUTS ON THE REBOUND

Secretary Wirtz has reason to be pleased with the response to the Labor Department's experimental Neighborhood Youth Corps. In a single month the pilot program in Newark rescued 348 dropouts from school, gave them useful work and a new outlook on life. All of these young people had been discouraged by their experiences in school and again by their inability to find jobs. The Youth Corps put them to work as nurses' aids, library assistants, linemen's helpers, assistant mechanics, and so forth. More than half of the group has enrolled in night school and many others have laid plans for a resumption of their education.

The genius of the Youth Corps program is that it catches youngsters at a time of acute disillusionment and opens new doors of opportunity to them. Instead of trying to force frustrated or rebellious youngsters back to school, it gives them a chance to find out for themselves, through work experience, how important an education is in this age of technology and specialization. Interviewers among the participants in the Newark project found an overwhelming desire to return to school as soon as the youths begin to regain confidence in themselves and some understanding of the kind of economic world they live in.

The experience to date fully justifies extension of this national effort to save dropouts, in the language of Secretary Wirtz,

from "spending their lives in the back streets and alleys of our economic life." The approval of 20 new Neighborhood Youth Corps projects this week brings the total to 60. The plan is to give at least 150,000 boys and girls another chance to get a good start in life before the year is out. If these ventures are as well managed and as fruitful as the pilot project appears to be, they may well become the brightest spot in the antipoverty program. For there is no task in the whole spectrum of our social problems more vital than redirecting school dropouts who are teetering on the edge of despair.

[From the New York Times, Feb. 15, 1965]

## FIRST YOUTH CORPS IN NEWARK HAILED

(By Charles Mohr)

WASHINGTON, February 14.—Secretary of Labor W. Willard Wirtz reported to President Johnson today that the Nation's first Neighborhood Youth Corps in Newark had dispelled the idea that the Corps was a "make-work concept."

In a statement of reply, Mr. Johnson said the Newark experiment "has encouraged and heartened all those associated with it" and added that Mr. Wirtz' report was "an early indication that we can succeed in this best of all efforts."

The Neighborhood Youth Corps program is a major part of Mr. Johnson's antipoverty program. Full-time and summer programs are planned to give useful employment and training to school dropouts. The first neighborhood Corps project in the Nation has been in operation in Newark since January 4.

Mr. Wirtz said today in a memorandum to the President that "its success has been so heartening and meaningful that it warrants a special report to you."

## A THIRD CHANCE

Mr. Wirtz said that the Youth Corps enrollees were doing "jobs that would not ordinarily be done" and that "these are jobs that ought to be done in the public interest."

But he put even higher emphasis on a statement that "the single most important result of the program thus far is in the proof it has provided that young persons disheartened by failure at school and discouraged by failure in the labor force do respond with hope, confidence, and effort when given that important third chance."

Mr. Wirtz said that there were now 346 boys and girls at work in Youth Corps programs in Newark's schools, hospitals, library, museum, planning board, and other public agencies.

The total will eventually rise to 700. The youths work 30 hours a week. All of them were dropouts from school and were unemployed before volunteering for the program.

He said the total cost of the program was \$520,000 of which the Federal Government had contributed \$465,000.

## THE 180 RETURN TO SCHOOL

Secretary Wirtz said that the brief experience at Newark had led to several conclusions that already seemed warranted.

One was that work with the Youth Corps "does stimulate a desire to return to school" and that already 180 of the Newark enrollees had registered at night.

He said the desire to resume an abandoned education was prompted by "the awareness that education is all important in landing a job" and by the "growing feeling of confidence, fostered by their performance at work, that they can succeed."

Mr. Wirtz said it also appeared that the counselors supervising the program had been able, through personal attention and genuine interest, to inspire the youths. He quoted one counselor as saying of the youths:

"Some of them seemingly feel that they are not important to anybody, that nobody does care about them. Well, we care."

Mr. Wirtz' brief report relied heavily on quotations from interviews with young persons enrolled in the program. He quoted one young man who said he dropped out of school because his cousin had told him it was the way to "see the world."

The young man was quoted as saying, "I dropped out and I saw it—the unemployment line."

He was asked, "Have you taken this up with your cousin?"

"Did I," said the boy. "He's got two black eyes to say that I ain't going to drop out of school no more."

A girl was quoted as saying that she now wants to return to school. She said: "A high school diploma is more important now—and a college diploma is more important than a high school diploma. You can't hardly get a job without a diploma."

Mr. Wirtz wrote to Mr. Johnson, "This birth of second-generation hope is a reward without price."

The Wirtz report said that 112 youths were working in the Newark city hospital and at the Ivy Haven Home for the Aged. Most girls are working as nurses' aids, but eight enrollees are working in the pathology department and five in the dietary department.

Twenty-seven are working in the library, museum or in other offices of Mayor Hugh J. Addonizio. Some youths are working in city offices such as city planning, finance, personnel, and treasury. Thirty boys work in the city motor department learning vehicle repair and 13 boys work as linesmen's helpers for the police and fire department communication lines.

#### COLD WAR VETERANS' READJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE ACT

(Mr. ST GERMAIN (at the request of Mr. BOGGS) was granted permission to extend his remarks at this point in the RECORD and to include extraneous matter.)

Mr. ST GERMAIN. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing again, the cold war GI bill, in order to make educational assistance and home loan guarantees available to the millions of veterans of the cold war similar to the benefits available to the veterans of World War II and Korea.

My persistence in again introducing this legislation has been spurred on by the fact that my constituency has consistently made known its desires in this connection.

Many believe that this seems to be the offer of a reward for services rendered. I would like to eliminate this confusion, since it is outrageous to assume that our youth would risk their lives for the assurance of educational benefits. Approximately 44 percent of our eligible young men serve their country in some one of our armed services. They actually sacrifice 2 to 4 years of their lives, during a period when the other 56 percent have the opportunity to obtain their education and start their careers. The problem is magnified by the fact that those who are in the service are the ones who can least afford an education and are also in no position to compete with the civilian population.

The deep concern is for those cold war veterans who return to civilian life, for they return completely unprepared and as yet without skills. This legislation is a chance—not a reward—to make up for lost time—to prepare themselves for

what the future may hold in store. It is well-known that there is deep concern for our youth who decide to drop out from school. In a measure, our cold war veterans are "dropouts" and not by their own volition, and therefore, they should have our practical and sympathetic consideration. This measure would provide them with the opportunity for an education, to obtain housing with their necessarily limited means.

Our country sorely needs every educated and skilled worker available. Why lose the talents and abilities of these millions of veterans—it would be wasteful and negligible to do this to this group of men who have served us well and who were ready to risk their lives when they were called.

This legislation would be a fine investment in our Nation's future—just as the original World War II GI bill, which accomplished the educational objectives that were so necessary.

Aside from the monetary advantages to our communities, this bill would afford the same readjustment to civilian life as the original GI bill did for our World War II veterans.

My correspondence daily confirms my belief that this measure has strong support and I urge my colleagues to do all possible to assure its enactment.

#### SALARY CHANGES

(Mr. BURLESON (at the request of Mr. BOGGS) was given permission to extend his remarks at this point in the RECORD and to include a table.)

Mr. BURLESON. Mr. Speaker, in accordance with my statement last year that I would keep the House informed of any changes affecting salary schedules of the House employees, I wish to advise that the Committee on House Administration has revised the House wage schedule, a copy of which is inserted herewith in the RECORD. The criteria which the committee uses in establishing the House wage schedule include the annual survey of prevailing wage rates for the metropolitan area of Washington. In December the survey recommended a slight increase in rates and the committee has revised its schedule in conformity therewith.

Of the 79 positions in the House which are controlled by this schedule, 25 are affected. These positions are in the blue-collar category, such as carpenters, furniture finishers, and so forth.

House wage schedule, per annum rates

HHS—	Steps		
	1	2	3
1	\$3,421	\$3,588	\$3,779
2	3,995	4,210	4,425
3	4,593	4,832	5,071
4	5,191	5,454	5,717
5	5,765	6,078	6,387
6	6,052	6,363	6,674
7	6,316	6,650	6,985
8	6,602	6,937	7,296
9	6,866	7,224	7,633
10	7,128	7,511	7,894
11	7,511	7,894	8,300
12	7,846	8,252	8,659
13	8,205	8,635	9,066

#### CIVILIAN WORKERS IN VIETNAM

(Mr. GONZALEZ (at the request of Mr. BOGGS) was granted permission to extend his remarks at this point in the RECORD and to include extraneous matter.)

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, in the many stories that have been written about the current crisis in Vietnam, very little has been said thus far about the courage and devotion of the U.S. civilian workers there.

For this reason, I seek unanimous consent to include in the RECORD the following story by Joseph Young which appeared in the February 16, 1965 Washington Star:

U.S. CIVILIAN WORKERS PRAISED FOR THEIR COURAGE IN VIETNAM  
(By Joseph Young)

A firsthand report on how Government civilian employees are able and courageously performing their duties in battle-torn Vietnam has been made by the deputy inspector general of foreign assistance in the State Department.

Howard E. Haugerud had high praise for employees of the Agency for International Development and those in the Foreign Service, after returning from a month's inspection trip there.

Haugerud reports:

"Many of these men whom I visited are living under extremely hazardous conditions and are constantly subject to injury, kidnapping, or death at the hands of the Vietcong infiltrators, snipers, terrorists and regular military units.

"They must work with and be respected by the district chiefs, village and hamlet leaders, and often remain in the hamlets overnight in the homes of these leaders who are generally 'marked men' by the Vietcong. In order to carry out their missions, they must work in areas infested with or threatened by the Vietcong. They must do so without military escort and generally unarmed because of the allegedly more severe penalties inflicted by the Vietcong in the event of capture while carrying weapons.

"My purpose in writing is to call attention to these Americans, many of whom are young and junior in grade. Because their activities are conducted mainly with the Vietnamese people and because they are away from the large population centers engaging in vital but nonspectacular work, I do not believe they are receiving the public credit that is due them."

This reporter is happy to pay credit to these courageous and dedicated public servants, and by doing so stress that Government civilian employees throughout our history—in war, peace and emergency—have always served their country faithfully and well.

#### WILL THE POOR MIGRANT FARM WORKERS BE SOLD OUT AGAIN?

(Mr. GONZALEZ (at the request of Mr. BOGGS) was granted permission to extend his remarks at this point in the RECORD and to include extraneous matter.)

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, anyone reasonably acquainted with the bracero law could have predicted last year when that slave-labor program was finally voted down by Congress that the wealthy and powerful forces which profited from it would make a renewed last-ditch stand to bring it back during the 89th Congress. It is no surprise, therefore, to find these forces going to